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CIA Recruiting City Police For Temporary Positions

Overseas Terrorism Is Possible Target

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The Central Intelligence Agency is recruiting big-city police officers to serve as temporary intelligence officers, which may involve helping to counter terrorism overseas, an agency spokeswoman said yesterday.

Spokeswoman Sharon Foster said the agency has hired police officers in the past and the current recruitment drive is similar to "the sort of program we had going for engineers and people we had a great need for in the agency."

Foster said police officers have investigative skills required by the CIA, and although they are not being recruited specifically to counter terrorism, "there has never been terrorism on as great a scale as it is now."

She said she did not know how many officers are being sought or

from what cities. The New York Times reported yesterday that the police departments of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Boston and San Francisco are among 18 municipal departments asked by the CIA to allow recruitment.

New York's police department is participating, the Times said. At least one department—the Los Angeles Police Department—refused.

Kathy Pherson, another CIA spokeswoman, said the request for experienced police investigators for temporary assignments abroad was made at an unpublicized July 21 intelligence seminar on terrorism sponsored by the CIA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation at CIA headquarters in McLean.

Pherson said she thinks this is the first CIA attempt to employ large numbers of trained police officers for intelligence work.